

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7832

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY//ECJ4/7- //

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 6677

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS

SUBJECT: FY 1976 AND FY 1977 MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF: (A) STATE 258168, DTG 310005Z OCT 75; (B) MONROVIA 0441, DTG 231634Z JAN 75; (C) SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OBJECTIVE MEMORANDUM (POM), FY 1977-81; (D) STATE 260884, DTG 042005Z NOV 75.

1. SUMMARY. THIS MESSAGE RESPONDS TO STATE 258168 REQUESTING INFO ON HOW ASSISTANCE LEVELS PROPOSED FOR FY 76 AND FY 75 WILL BE UTILIZED. MESSAGE ALSO ARGUES FOR CONTINUED EFFORTS TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL FOREIGN MILITARY SALES CREDIT IN AMOUNT OF \$1.2 MILLION IN FY 76. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING INFO IS PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO STATE 258168, KEYED TO LETTERED SUBPARAGRAPHS OF PARAGRAPH 5 THEREOF:

(A) LIBERIA WILL ACCEPT AND CONSUMMATE CREDIT AT LEVEL INDICATED.

(B) MAJOR ITEMS TO BE PROCURED IN PRIORITY:

(1) MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT AND SHOP FACILITIES FOR
LIBERIAN NATIONAL COAST GUARD \$.34 MILLION

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(2) ENGINEER EQUIPMENT

(A) FOUR CEMENT MIXERS, \$.05

(B) ROME PLOW ATTACHMENTS FOR D8'S, \$.06

(C) COMMERCIAL LOWBOY TRAILER, \$.05

(C) THIS LEVEL OF CREDIT IS INSUFFICIENT TO SUPPORT MILITARY REQUIREMENTS DESCRIBED IN CURRENT POM AND JSOP. SEE FURTHER DISCUSSION IN PARA 3, BELOW.

(D) PROVISION OF CREDIT ALLOWS COMPLETION OF COAST GUARD MODERNIZATION BEGUN WITH FY 75 FMSCR AND SMALL ADVANCEMENT OF ENGR EQUIPMENT ACQUISITIONS. THESE PROGRAMS WERE OUTLINED IN MONROVIA 0441.

(E) GRANT MATERIAL SUPPORT TO LIBERIA WAS TERMINATED IN FY 73. GRANT TRAINING PROGRAM INSUFFICIENT TO SATISFY ALL CONUS TRAINING REQUIREMENTS, AND A SMALL PORTION OF FY 75 FMSCR UTILIZED FOR TRAINING (MTT'S AND CONUS TRAINING ASSOCIATED WITH COAST GUARD MODERNIZATION).

(F) REGIONAL OBJECTIVE 2C AND ALL COUNTRY OBJECTIVES LISTED IN POM, FY 1977-81, ARE SUPPORTED BY THIS CREDIT. IN FACT, ADVANCEMENT OF A PORTION OF CREDIT REQUESTED BY MONROVIA 0441 IN FY 75 HAS RAISED LIBERIA'S EXPECTATIONS THAT THESE PROGRAMS WOULD BE COMPLETED UTILIZING FY 76 FUNDS. IMPLICATIONS ARE ADDRESSED IN PAR 3, BELOW.

(G) UTILIZATION OF CREDIT FOR PURPOSES DESCRIBED ABOVE CAN IN NO WAY CONTRIBUTE TO AN ARMS RACE OR AFFECT REGIONAL ARMS BALANCE.

(H) WITHOUT THIS CREDIT, GOL WILL BE UNABLE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE FACILITIES FOR COAST GUARD EQUIPMENT PROCURED WITH FY 75 FMSCR. ITEMS ARE ANTICIPATED FOR DELIVERY BEGINNING JANUARY 1976.

(I) THIS \$.5 MILLION WILL NOT SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE LIBERIA'S NATIONAL DEBT PAYMENT, PRODUCE EXCESSIVE CLAIMS ON FUTURE BUDGETS, NOR INTERFERE WITH DEVELOPMENT. RATHER, THIS
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CREDIT DIRECTLY SUPPORTS CIVIC ACTION/RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND ASSISTS LIBERIA'S COASTAL/ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION EFFORT.

(J) PROJECTED US CASH PURCHASES ARE FOR UNIFORMS, AMMUNITION AND REPAIR PARTS FOR THE EXISTING VEHICLE FLEET. NO THIRD COUNTRY PURCHASES ARE ANTICIPATED.

3. YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT (STATE 260884) FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS IN FY 76 IS GREATLY APPRECIATED. FOLLOWING PROVIDED TO SUPPORT YOUR CONTINUING EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD. IN ADDITION TO PROPOSED \$.5 MILLION, GOL NEEDS AND WOULD ACCEPT AND ADDITIONAL \$1.2 MILLION IN FMSCR FOR FY 1976. THIS SUM IS REMAINDER OF \$2.5 MILLION REQUESTED IN MONROVIA 0441. RATIONALE PROVIDED THEREIN SUPPORTING NEED AND REQUEST CONTINUES TO BE VALID. HOWEVER, EXAMINATION OF NEED FOR ADDITIONAL \$1.2 MILLION FMSCR MUST BE DONE IN CONTEXT OF ENTIRE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR LIBERIA FOR SEVERAL YEARS. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY AND RECAPITULATION.

(A) DESIRED FMSCR (BACKGROUND):

(1) FY 75. \$.5 MILLION FOR GENERAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

(2) FY 76-80. \$.5 MILLION EACH YEAR FOR GENERAL MILITARY ITEMS TO GIVE ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA MINIMUM ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR MISSION OF INTERNAL SECURITY. THIS LEVEL WAS DETERMINED BY A STUDY WHICH RESULTED IN A FIVE-YEAR PLAN TO CORRECT DEFICIENCIES AND DEVELOP SELF SUFFICIENCY.

(3) FY 76 OR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. \$2.5 MILLION, EITHER TOTAL SPECIAL GRANT, OR PART GRANT AID AND PART FMSCR, OR TOTAL FMSCR FOR COAST GUARD MODERNIZATION AND SPECIAL ENGINEER EQUIPMENT FOR CIVIC-ACTION AND LAND-CLEARING PROJECTS AIMED AT RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY (MONROVIA 0441).

(B) FMSCR RECEIVED AND OBLIGATED, FY 75, \$1.8 MILLION, REPRESENTING \$.5 MILLION BEGIN BRACKETS PARA. 3(A)(1), ABOVE END BRACKETS AND \$1.3 MILLION OF SPECIAL REQUEST BEGIN BRACKETS
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PARA. 3(A)(3), ABOVE END BRACKETS. UNCERTAINTIES ASSOCIATED WITH FUTURE FMSCR ALLOCATIONS AND ESTABLISHED PRIORITIES LED TO FY 75 ALLOCATION AS FOLLOWS: COAST GUARD MODERNIZATION, \$1.67 MILLION, AND ENGINEER EQUIPMENT, \$.13 MILLION. IN ADDITION, IN LATE FY 75, OF REMAINING FY 72 CREDIT \$.15 MILLION WAS EXPENDED ON ENGINEER EQUIPMENT AND \$.1 MILLION ON GROUND MOBILITY.

(C) FMSCR EXPECTED, FY 76 (STATE 258168). \$.5 MILLION ALLOCATED AS INDICATED IN PARA. 2(B) ABOVE. THIS ESSENTIALLY COMPLETES COAST GUARD MODERNIZATION PORTION DESCRIBED MONROVIA 0441.

(D) THIS LEAVES UNFINANCED REQUIREMENT OF \$.5 MILLION BEGIN BRACKETS PARA. 3(A)(1), ABOVE END BRACKETS, \$.5 MILLION BEGIN

BRACKETS PARA. 3(A)(2), ABOVE END BRACKETS, AND APPROXIMATELY \$.2 MILLION FOR SPECIAL ENGINEER EQUIPMENT BEGIN BRACKETS PARA. 3(A)(3), ABOVE END BRACKETS.

(E) SHOULD THESE PROGRAMS REMAIN UNFUNDED, FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR UPGRADING ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA AND FOR ATTAINMENT OF SELF SUFFICIENCY WILL SLIP AT LEAST ONE YEAR, AND VALUABLE CIVIC ACTION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY SLOWED.

4. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT STATE AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR ADDITIONAL FMSCR TO BRING TOTAL FOR LIBERIA TO \$1.7 MILLION FOR FY 76. WE HAVE SEEN EXCELLENT AND STEADY PROGRESS OVER PAST 18 MONTHS BY ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA IN EXECUTING FIVE OF SIX OBJECTIVES OF FIVE-YEAR PLAN AND WOULD NOT WISH TO SEE IT BOG DOWN DUE TO FAILURE TO FINANCE SIXTH (AND PERHAPS SINGLY MOST IMPORTANT), THAT OF EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION. ADDITIONALLY, I HAVE SEEN LIBERIAN ARMED FORCES MAKE OUTSTANDING PROGRESS IN SELF HELP AND CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS DURING THIS PERIOD. WITH INFUSION OF SPECIAL ITEMS OF ENGINEER EQUIPMENT THEY CAN EXPLIT THEIR CAPABILITIES TO BETTERMENT OF ALL LIBERIANS IN RURAL AREAS. OFFICIALS OF MILITARY COMMAND FOR THIS REGION, HQ EUCOM, HAVE SEEN PROGRESS IN LIBERIA AND HAVE
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PROVIDED THEIR FULL SUPPORT TO ALL PROGRAMS DISCUSSED IN THIS MESSAGE.
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